Conflicting Testimony On Ferrie-Oswald Link

Washington

Documents in the National Archives disclosed yesterday that Jack S. Martin of New Orleans, the man who linked Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, had admitted to the Secret Service and the FBI that his story was a lie.

Ferrie, who was found dead Wednesday, was a major figure in an investigation by New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison of an alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The District Attorney has promised sensational revelations and arrests. He insists the alleged plot was hatched in New Orleans.

STORY

Martin told Garrison shortly after the assassination that Ferrie knew Oswald, that he trained him in the use of rifles with telescopic sights, and that Ferrie had visited Dallas about two weeks before the assassination of the President Nov. 22, 1963.

Soon thereafter, Martin swore in separate statements to FBI and Secret Service agents that his tale was a figment of his imagination.

On the night of Nov. 29, 1963, two Secret Service agents, Anthony E. Gerrets and John W. Rice, interviewed Martin "at length," in his apartment in New Orleans.

REPORT

Their report states:

"Martin, who has every appearance of being an alcoholic, admitted during the interview that he suffers from 'telephonitis' when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking bouts that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about David William Ferrie being involved with Lee Harvey Oswald.

"He said he had heard on television that Oswald had at one time been active in the Civil Air Patrol and had later heard that Ferrie had been his squadron commander. Martin stated that Ferrie was well known to him; that he recalled having seen rifles in Ferrie's home and also recalled that Kohlman (who had been a newspaper reporter previously) had written an article on Ferrie and that Ferrie had been a Marine and had been with the Civil Air Patrol.

"Martin stated that after turning all these thoughts over in his mind, he had telephoned Herman S. Kohlman and had told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination."

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